

July 7, 2020

Dear Committee,

I am writing this letter to ask you to support making The Rhode Island Promise Scholarship Program permanent. The RI Promise Program has given me the opportunity to attend the Community College of Rhode Island at no cost which has helped me and my family financially. If it were not for RI Promise I would not have been able to afford or attend college.

Before attending CCRI, I graduated from Highlander Charter School in June of 2018. I enrolled in the RI Promise program during my first year of CCRI in August of 2018. Being part of this program gave me the opportunity to pursue my education and I made the most of this opportunity and still this day I am. The amount of support I have received from the CCRI staff, faculty, professors, and my advisor Jason Moniz has helped me succeed in all of my courses.

I also enrolled in the Joint Admissions Program (JAA). JAA helped me know which courses I needed to take at CCRI in order to be able to transfer to RIC. I am currently a full-time student and I am wrapping up my last two semesters to be able to transfer to RIC in 2021. I am transferring to RIC to study social work and become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW).

CCRI and the RI Promise and JAA program have all made a huge impact in my education and have given the opportunity to pursue my dreams. I am grateful and thankful for RI Promise and for everything it has allowed me to do. I believe that the Community College of Rhode Island is

an amazing place with staff, professors, and advisors who want students to succeed and are here to make sure all of the students obtain all of the resources they need to succeed.

My hope is that you consider making the RI Promise Program permanent and allow other students that will attend CCRI in the future the same opportunity I received. Those students deserve to have the same education I had and to make the most of the opportunity they'll receive as a Promise Scholar.

I am and will always be grateful and thankful for the opportunity of being able to attend CCRI under the RI Promise Program. My family will always be grateful for the opportunity I received here to get the education I deserved. As the older sister of a younger brother who will be in college in the matter of 2 years, I hope that he also gets the opportunity that his older sister received. I promise to take this experience of being part of the RI Promise Program and make the best of it in my future.

Sincerely,

Leannie Martinez-Ortiz

CCRI Full-Time Student